

Listing of Claims

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1. (Previously Amended) In a computer system having a laboratory information system application program, an operating system and a printer driver, a method for formatting data from a group of laboratory instruments, the method comprising:

- obtaining data indicative of outputs of the group of laboratory instruments by the laboratory information system application program;
- transferring the data from the laboratory information system application program, to an operating system for printing;
- transferring the data, by the operating system, to the printer driver;
- formatting the data, by the printer driver, into a format required by an external monitoring facility; and
- storing the formatted data in a file for extraction by the external monitoring facility.

2. (Previously Amended) In a computer system having a laboratory information system application program, an operating system, a printer driver and a port monitor, a method for formatting data from a group of laboratory instruments, the method comprising:

- obtaining data indicative of outputs of the group of laboratory instruments by the laboratory information system application program;
- transferring the data, by the laboratory information system application program, to an operating system for printing;
- transferring the data from the operating system to the printer driver;
- transferring the data from the printer driver to the port monitor;

formatting the data, by the port monitor, into a format required by an external monitoring facility; and

storing the formatted data in a file for extraction by the external monitoring facility.

b) 3. (Original) A system for formatting laboratory instrument output data, the system comprising:

a laboratory information system application program for receiving data outputs from one or more laboratory instruments;

an operating system operable to run the laboratory information system application program and to provide centralized printing; and

a printer driver for receiving the data to be printed out and formatting the data according to a predetermined format.

4. (Original) A system for formatting laboratory instrument output data, the system comprising:

a laboratory information system application program for receiving data outputs from one or more laboratory instruments;

an operating system operable to run the laboratory information system application program and to provide centralized printing; and

a port monitor for receiving data to be printed and formatting the data according to a predetermined format.

5. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said format required for an external monitoring facility comprises a title portion and a data portion.

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6. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein said title portion comprises a field for material title, a field for material level, and a field for material lot number, and wherein said data portion comprises a field for date, a field for time, a field for test result, and a field for unit identifier.

7. (New) The system of claim 3, wherein said predetermined format comprises a title portion and a data portion.

8. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein said title portion comprises a field for material title, a field for material level, and a field for material lot number, and wherein said data portion comprises a field for date, a field for time, a field for test result, and a field for unit identifier.
